

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
STATESBORO DIVISION

JOSHUA JEFFREY SHULL,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	CV 625-008
)	
THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS)	
(GEORGIA) and ROGERS STATE)	
PRISON,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

MAGISTRATE JUDGE’S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Plaintiff, currently incarcerated at Newton County Detention Center in Covington, Georgia, submitted to the Clerk of Court in the Northern District of Georgia for filing a complaint brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and requested permission to proceed *in forma pauperis* (“IFP”). (Doc. nos. 1, 2.) United States Magistrate Judge J. Clay Fuller transferred the case to the Southern District of Georgia because the events about which Plaintiff complains allegedly occurred at Rogers State Prison (“RSP”) in Reidsville, Georgia, within the Statesboro Division of this District. (Doc. no. 3.) Upon opening the case in the Southern District, on February 20, 2025, the Court directed Plaintiff to return his Prisoner Trust Fund Account Statement and Consent to Collection of Fees forms within thirty days and advised Plaintiff all prisoners, even those proceeding IFP, must pay the filing fee of \$350.00 in full. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1); (see doc. no. 6, pp. 1-3). The Court also directed Plaintiff to submit an amended complaint within that same thirty-day period. (See doc. no. 6,

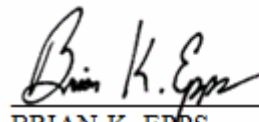
pp. 3-6.) Plaintiff was cautioned failure to respond would be an election to have this case voluntarily dismissed without prejudice. (See id. at 7.) The time to respond has passed, and Plaintiff has not submitted the IFP documents or an amended complaint as required by the Court's February 20th Order. Nor has he provided the Court with any explanation why he has not complied.

Plaintiff cannot proceed IFP unless he submits the requisite Trust Fund Account Statement and consents to collection of the entire \$350.00 filing fee in installments. Wilson v. Sargent, 313 F.3d 1315, 1319, 1321 (11th Cir. 2002) (citing 28 U.S.C. § 1915). Moreover, a district court has authority to manage its docket to expeditiously resolve cases, and this authority includes the power to dismiss a case for failure to prosecute or failure to comply with a court order. Equity Lifestyle Props., Inc. v. Fla. Mowing & Landscape Serv., Inc., 556 F.3d 1232, 1240 (11th Cir. 2009) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b)); see also Eades v. Ala. Dep't of Hum. Res., 298 F. App'x 862, 863 (11th Cir. 2008) (*per curiam*) ("District courts possess the ability to dismiss a case . . . for want of prosecution based on two possible sources of authority: Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b) or their inherent authority to manage their dockets."). Also, the Local Rules of the Southern District of Georgia dictate that an "assigned Judge may, after notice to counsel of record, *sua sponte* . . . dismiss any action for want of prosecution, with or without prejudice . . . [for] [w]illful disobedience or neglect of any order of the Court; or [a]ny other failure to prosecute a civil action with reasonable promptness." Loc. R. 41.1 (b) & (c). Finally, dismissal without prejudice is generally appropriate pursuant to Rule 41(b) where a plaintiff has failed to comply with a court order, "especially where the litigant has been forewarned." Owens v. Pinellas Cnty. Sheriff's

Dep't, 331 F. App'x 654, 655 (11th Cir. 2009) (*per curiam*) (citing Moon v. Newsome, 863 F.2d 835, 837 (11th Cir. 1989)).

Here, Plaintiff's failure to return the necessary IFP papers and file an amended complaint, or even to provide the Court with an explanation for his failure to comply with the Court's February 20th Order amounts not only to a failure to prosecute, but also an abandonment of his case. This is precisely the type of neglect contemplated by the Local Rules. Plaintiff has been warned that failing to return the necessary IFP papers and submit an amended complaint would be an election to have his case voluntarily dismissed. (See doc. no. 4, p. 7.) As Plaintiff has neither fulfilled the requirements for proceeding IFP, nor paid the full filing fee, and because the imposition of monetary sanctions is not feasible in light of the initial request to proceed IFP, the Court **REPORTS** and **RECOMMENDS** this case be **DISMISSED** without prejudice and this civil action be **CLOSED**.

SO REPORTED and RECOMMENDED this 16th day of April, 2025, at Augusta, Georgia.



BRIAN K. EPPS
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA